REMARKS

By the present invention, Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 32-36, 41-44, 47, 48, 50-52, 54, 59-62, 65, 66, 68-70, 72, 77 and 78 have been amended, and Claims 79-87 have been newly added. Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, and 77-87 remain pending in the present application. Claims 25, 43 and 61 are independent claims. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the personal interview held October 20, 2005. The present response summarizes the substance of the interview. At the interview Applicant's representatives discussed a proposed amendment. Proposed amended independent Claims 25, 43 and 61 recited a computer-implemented method for managing and reviewing documents, a computer program product, and a system, respectively.

Applicant's representatives presented arguments traversing the rejection of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the rejection of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ivanov (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,452) in view of Leone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,360) and Plantz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,702). A formal agreement as to the patentability of the claims was withheld by the Examiner pending a thorough review of arguments and proposed amendment presented at the interview, a thorough review of this amendment, and a further update search.

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Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over the claims of pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/576,386, filed May 22, 2000. Applicant has filed a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321 and the appropriate filing fee with the present response. This document should serve to obviate this particular ground of rejection.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over the claims of pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/576,386, filed May 22, 2000.

Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 (c) as being of improper dependent form for allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicant has amended Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 32-36, 41-44, 51, 54, 59-62, 65, 66, 68-70, 72, 77 and 78 to overcome this objection, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 (c) as being of improper dependent form.

Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 32-36, 41-44, 51, 54, 59-62, 65, 66, 68-70, 72, 77 and 78 such that Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 fully comply with

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the original disclosure, and introduce no new matter therewith.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ivanov in view of Leone et al. and Plantz et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended independent Claims 25, 43 and 61 respectively recite a computer-implemented method, a computer program product, and/or system for managing and reviewing content, and making decisions regarding the content. The computer-implemented method, computer program product, and/or system receive a submission at a computer system, wherein the received submission includes at least one of (i) received file uploaded to the computer system or (ii) received data pertaining to the submission by a browser interface, wherein the computer system includes at least one database to store a plurality of submissions, and wherein the submission includes at least one of a document, correspondence, a review, scheduling information, or a decision on at least one part of the submission. The computer-implemented method, computer program product, and/or system translates the submission from one of a plurality of clients from at least one input format to at least one user defined output format, wherein the plurality of clients includes an author of the submission, a reviewer of the submission, a chairperson, or a staff person managing at least one meeting or journal.

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The computer-implemented method, a computer program product, and/or system creates a proof of the submission to enable viewing and approval of the submission prior to storing the submission in the computer system, and stores at least one version of the submission in the computer system, wherein the at least one version includes the submission or at least one revised version of the submission by the plurality of clients. The computer-implemented method, computer program product, and/or system invite at least one reviewer from a list of reviewers to review the submission, where the list of reviewers is maintained by the computer system. The computer-implemented method, computer program product, and/or system provides access to the submission to at least one reviewer who agrees to review the submission, and receives at least one review of the submission from the at least one reviewer who agrees to review the submission, the received at least one review including at least one of a revised document, correspondence, recommendation, a score, or the decision, wherein when the received at least one review is the decision, the decision is at least one of accepting, rejecting, or requesting at least one revision to the submission.

The computer-implemented method, computer program product, and/or system reports the received at least one review about the submission, receives a selection decision of whether to include content of at least one version of the submission in at least one meeting or journal, determines the content of at least one version of the submission to publish for the at least one meeting or journal when the selection decision is to include the content; and receives a selection of submissions from at least one of the plurality of clients, wherein the selection is a subset of the

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content of at least one version of the submission to publish for the at least one meeting or journal when the selection decision is to include the content.

Applicant has also amended dependent Claims 42, 60 and 78 to specify that information about the author and the at least one reviewer is not provided with the manuscript to at least one of the plurality of clients. These claims set forth a two-way blinding feature which minimizes any potential bias in the review process.

None of the cited references teach or disclose the combination of elements recited in the rejected claims. For example, none of the cited references teach or disclose at least translating the submission from one of a plurality of clients from at least one input format to at least one user defined output format or inviting at least one reviewer from a list of reviewers to review all portions of the submission. Each of the references is discussed in more detail below.

Ivanov describes a method for structuring the process of participatory document evaluation by a plurality of reviewers utilizing a feed-forward synchronization schema defined as a workflow graph construct. Independent aspects of each document are evaluated in parallel, and a stage evaluation is started when all required data (including data provided by other reviewers) is available. The workflow graph construct assembles together a set of workflow objects (review, roles, stages, document), and associates a set of functional properties to each of them. The topology of the workflow graph describes the synchronization schema, while the functional properties provide additional flexibility and further refine the evaluation strategy. A method for managing the process of participatory document evaluation by a plurality of reviewers utilizes a programmed computer system. Documents to be reviewed are prepared by a set of preparers,

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and are stored into a database. Reviewers participate in the review process by evaluating aspects of the document within their area of expertise. Depending on the information in each individual document, a set of reviewers is notified that the document is ready for their review. Each reviewer is notified at the time appropriate for his/her role via electronic mail by a workflow manager.

Ivanov differs from the claimed invention because, as conceded in the Office Action, Ivanov does not explicitly teach translating documents. In addition, Ivanov does not invite reviewers to review documents, and does not enable reviewers to each review all portions of a document. Ivanov only allows reviewers to review certain aspects of a document (see col. 8, lines 20-24). Furthermore, amended independent Claims 25, 43 and 61 currently recite proofing the manuscript to enable viewing and approval of the manuscript prior to storing said manuscript in the computer. Ivanov nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests this particular claimed feature.

Leone et al. describes a methodology that converts non-HTML softcopy documents to HTML formatted documents based on examination of hypertext link entry points. To resolve these links, Leone et al. interrogates the non-HTML formatted texts for hypertext links, verifies that the links are still valid (determines whether the to-be-linked-to topic, document or reference still exists) and constructs HTML link anchors. After all non-HTML links are resolved (i.e., converted to HTML, verified, and HTML anchors constructed), the entire topic or accessed portion of a requested document or topic text is formatted into HTML text and hypertext links. The most common entry point for beginning the conversion process is the table of contents. This

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usually provides numerous hypertext entry points to other topics contained in the work. Links can exist at any spot in the work.

The Office Action relies on Leone et al. for teaching translating of documents. However, Applicant has further amended independent Claims 25, 43 and 61 to specify that translating a manuscript from at least one input format to at least one user defined output format. Leone et al. only translates a document into HTML format and nowhere teaches or reasonably suggest translating a document from at least one input format to at least one user defined format. Leone et al. also fails to supplement the deficiencies of Ivanov because Leone et al. nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests inviting reviewers to review documents and/or enabling reviewers to each review all portions of a document. Leone et al. also nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests proofing a document to enable viewing and approval of the document prior to storing said document in the computer.

Plantz et al. does not supplement the deficiencies of Ivanov because Plantz et al. nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests inviting reviewers to review documents and/or enabling reviewers to each review all portions of a document. Plantz et al. also nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests proofing a document to enable viewing and approval of the document prior to storing said document in the computer, and/or translating a document from at least one input format to at least one user defined format.

More particularly, Plantz et al. describes a Group Publishing System (GPS) for permitting coordinated publishing, assembly and administration of texts by an unlimited number of authors or editors, each of whom may perform word processing, document assembly and editing

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functions on the same or different portions of a group authored project. Each user of the system also has the capability of electronically communicating through the GPS with any other user of the system working on the same project. The word-processing functions of the GPS are standardized according to pre-defined formats, and e-mail communication links are provided for communication between all users. The system displays the assembled or partially assembled product to all users and operates in multi-media (text, video, CD-ROM, audio and photographic) formats. The output of the GPS is directly viewable, printable or downloadable in publishable format.

Consequently, it is clear that Leone et al. and Plantz et al. both fail to supplement the deficiencies of Ivanov because neither Leone et al. nor Plantz et al. teach or reasonably suggest a computer-implemented method, a computer program product, and/or a computer-implemented system for managing and reviewing content, and making decisions regarding the content, as set forth in independent Claims 25, 43 and 61.

Applicant respectfully submits that for the obviousness rejection of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 the motivation to combine the references is leading.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art, and there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or to combine the reference teachings. *In re Vaek*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In view of the above, it is clear that the cited references

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taken alone or in any reasonable combination do not teach or suggest the features recited in the rejected claims.

Regarding 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78, Applicant respectfully submits that Ivanov, Leone et al., Plantz et al., or any combination thereof provides no motivation whatsoever to modify the teachings thereof to provide a computer-implemented method, a computer program product, and/or system for managing and reviewing content, and making decisions regarding the content, the method, product and/or system receiving a submission at a computer system, wherein the receiving the submission includes at least one of (i) receiving a file uploaded to the computer system or (ii) receiving data pertaining to the submission by a browser interface, wherein the computer system includes at least one database to store a plurality of submissions, and wherein the submission includes at least one of a document, correspondence, a review, scheduling information, or a decision on at least one part of the submission; translating the submission from one of a plurality of clients from at least one input format to at least one user defined output format, wherein the plurality of clients includes an author of the submission, a reviewer of the submission, a chairperson, or a staff person managing at least one meeting or journal; creating a proof of the submission to enable viewing and approval of the submission prior to storing the submission in the computer system; storing at least one version of the submission in the computer system, wherein the at least one version includes the submission or at least one revision to the submission by the plurality of clients; inviting at least one reviewer from a list of reviewers to review the submission, where the list of reviewers is maintained by the computer system; providing access to the submission to at least

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<u>one reviewer who agrees to review the submission</u>; receiving at least one review of the submission from the at least one reviewer who agrees to review the submission, the received at least one review including at least one of a revised document, correspondence, recommendation, a score, or the decision, wherein when the received at least one review is the decision, the decision is at least one of accepting, rejecting, or requesting at least one revision to the submission; reporting the received at least one review about the submission; receiving a selection decision of whether to include content of at least one version of the submission in at least one meeting or journal; determining the content of at least one version of the submission to publish for the at least one meeting or journal when the selection decision is to include the content; receiving a selection of submissions from at least one of the plurality of clients, wherein the selection is a subset of the content of at least one version of the submission to publish for the at least one meeting or journal when the selection decision is to include the content; and publishing the selection.

Applicant also respectfully submits that Ivanov, Leone et al., Plantz et al., or any combination thereof provides no motivation whatsoever to modify the teachings thereof to provide a computer-implemented method, a computer program product, and/or a computer-implemented system to not provide information with the manuscript about the author and the at least one reviewer to at least one of the plurality of clients, as newly added Claims 79, 82 and 85 require.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 25, 43 and 61 are allowable over Ivanov, Leone et al., Plantz et al.
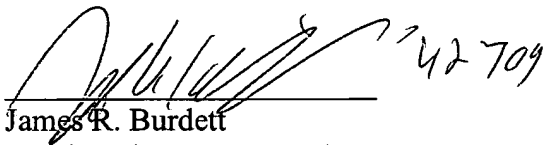
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Claims 26, 28-37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46-55, 57, 59, 60, 62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 25, 26, 28-37, 39, 41-44, 46-55, 57, 59-62, 64-73, 75, 77 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ivanov in view of Leone et al. and Plantz et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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